

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03

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FRB-03 MC-02 OMB-01 OES-03 CU-02 FEAE-00 CIEP-01 /098 W

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R 101240Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5079

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

DIA WASHDC

DOD/ISA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 CAIRO 6797

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR EG TU MARR

SUBJECT: TURKISH-LIBYAN COOPERATION AND IMPACT ON GOE

REF: A. DAO CAIRO DTG 031252Z JUL B. TRIPOLI 774

1. SUMMARY: IN CONTEXT OF GOE REACTION TO TURKISH AGREEMENT
TO SUPPLY WORKERS TO LIBYA, SEPARATE DISCUSSIONS WITH
TWO TURKISH EMBASSY COUNSELORS REVEALED CONTRADICTION
IN THEIR EXPLANATION OF TURKISH MOTIVATIONS FOR
CONCLUSION WITH LIBYA OF LABOR AGREEMENT PLUS EXTENSIVE
LIST OF OTHER AGREEMENTS IN ECONOMIC, CULTURAL AND
MILITARY FIELDS. ONE EXPLANATION REVEALED APPARENT
PERSONAL ANTI-AMERICAN REACTION BECAUSE OF US MILITARY
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ASSISTANCE SUSPENSION, WHILE SENIOR COUNSELOR CITED
ATTRACTIVE FACTORS BESIDES EMPLOYMENT OF SURPLUS

WORKERS AS BEING GUARANTEED OIL SUPPLY AT CONCESSIONARY RATES AND POTENTIAL INVESTMENT OF LIBYAN CAPITAL IN TURKISH PRIVATE AND MILITARY INDUSTRY. END SUMMARY

2. IN COURSE OF EFFORT TO ASCERTAIN TURKISH OBJECTIVES AND DETAILS OF AGREEMENT TO SEND TURKISH WORKERS TO LIBYA AS THEY MAY POSSIBLY HAVE IMPACT ON GOE RELATIONSHIP WITH LIBYA, EMBOFF SPOKE WITH SECOND TURKISH COUNSELOR FIRAT WHO PROVIDED SOMEWHAT SURPRISING INFORMATION. FIRAT NOTED THAT SEVERAL THOUSAND TURKISH WORKERS (HE DID NOT KNOW EXACT NUMBER) WOULD BE GOING TO LIBYA WITHIN NEXT FEW WEEKS. HE REMARKED THAT SOME WOULD BE RELUCTANT TO LEAVE THEIR EUROPEAN JOBS BUT "NATURAL FRIENDSHIP AND BROTHERHOOD" BETWEEN PEOPLE OF LIBYA AND TURKEY WILL QUICKLY ELIMINATE ANY OF THEIR MISGIVINGS. HE NOTED ALSO THAT DEVELOPMENTS "IN THIS AREA" WOULD BE OF PARTICULAR INTEREST TO US IF IT DID NOT RESPOND TO TURKISH "ULTIMATUM", REFERRING TO MILITARY AID AFFAIR. IN RESPONSE TO EMBOFF'S QUERY IN THIS CONNECTION, FIRAT'S COMMENT WAS "OF COURSE, TURKEY DOES NOT HAVE THE MONEY LIBYA HAS TO SPEND ON EXPENSIVE ARMS DEAL."

3. SINCE FIRAT APPEARED TO BE REFLECTING PERSONAL PIQUE OVER US SUSPENSION OF MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO TURKEY, EMBASSY THOUGHT IT BEST TO CHECK FURTHER TO DETERMINE WHETHER HIS REACTION COULD BE CONSTRUED AS HAVING ANY OFFICIAL OVERTONES. DCM, WHO HAD BEEN PROMISED ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON TURKISH-LIBYAN ARRANGEMENTS ON AN EARLIER OCCASION, PURSUED THIS MATTER FURTHER WITH FIRST TURKISH COUNSELOR KARASAPAN. KARASAPAN PROVIDED HIM WITH DETAILED REVIEW OF FOUR AGREEMENTS AND OTHER ARRANGEMENTS REACHED BETWEEN TURKEY AND LIBYA ON JANUARY 5, 1975. (PRESUMABLY THIS INFORMATION ALREADY KNOWN TO DEPT AS RESULT OF EMBASSY ANKARA REPORTING, BUT IS PROVIDED AS POSSIBLE FURTHER REFLECTION CURRENT TURKISH ATTITUDE.) KARASAPAN SAID THESE AGREEMENTS COVERED: A) ECONOMIC AND COMMERCIAL COOPERATION, B) SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION, C) CULTURAL AND INFORMATION EXCHANGE, AND D) LABOR. CONFIDENTIAL
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A JOINT MINISTERIAL COMMISSION IS TO COORDINATE IMPLEMENTATION OF THESE AGREEMENTS AND A JOINT BANK WILL BE SET UP TO FINANCE DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS.

4. WITH RESPECT TO LABOR AGREEMENT, KARASAPAN DID NOT KNOW HOW MANY TURKISH WORKERS HAD ARRIVED IN LIBYA ALREADY OR WHAT FINAL NUMBER WAS EXPECTED TO BE. HE NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT THERE WAS PROVISION IN AGREEMENT FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF SCHOOLS TO BE RUN BY TURKISH TEACHERS, SO HE ASSUMED THAT NUMBERS INVOLVED

WOULD BE FAIRLY LARGE, GUESSING THEY MAY REACH AS MANY AS 60,000 WITH FAMILIES. CONTRARY TO HIS COLLEAGUE'S COMMENT, HE SAID THESE WORKERS WOULD BE DRAWN DIRECTLY FROM TURKEY AND WOULD BE SELECTED BY THE TURKISH LABOR MINISTRY WITH APPROVAL OF APPROPRIATE LIBYAN REP IN ANKARA. THEY WOULD CONSIST OF SEMI-SKILLED AND SKILLED WORKERS AS WELL AS PROFESSIONALS, INCLUDING ENGINEERS, ARCHITECTS, ETC. IF LIBYA DESIRED, TURKEY WAS ALSO PREPARED TO PROVIDE PERSONNEL FOR CIVIL SERVICE POSITIONS.

5. KARASAPAN AGREED WITH DCM'S OBSERVATION THAT THIS WILL NOT BE REGARDED FAVORABLY BY GOE SINCE EGYPTIAN WORKERS AND PROFESSIONALS MIGHT POSSIBLY BE REPLACED TO A CERTAIN EXTENT BY TURKS. KARASAPAN SUGGESTED THAT LIBYANS SOUGHT TURKISH ASSISTANCE BECAUSE TURKS WERE NOT INVOLVED IN ARAB PROBLEMS. WITH RESPECT TO EGYPTIAN REACTION, HE NOTED WRYLTY THAT EGYPTIAN ATTITUDE TOWARD CYPRUS QUESTION HAD NOT BEEN PARTICULARLY TO TURKEY'S LIKING, EITHER.

6. KARASAPAN ALSO REPORTED ON OTHER ARRANGEMENTS REACHED BETWEEN LIBYA AND TURKEY AT THE SAME TIME WHICH INCLUDED: A) CIVIL AIR AGREEMENT, B) ESTABLISHMENT OF A LIBYAN-TURKISH CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, AND C) AGREEMENT TO PROMOTE PRIVATE INVESTMENT IN EACH COUNTRY (WITH IMPLICATION THAT THIS WOULD CONSIST PRIMARILY OF FLOW OF LIBYAN CAPITAL TO TURKEY). ACCORDING TO KARASAPAN, TWO IMPORTANT FACTORS WHICH INFLUENCED TRUKISH DECISION TO PARTICIPATE IN THESE ARRANGEMENTS WERE GUARANTEED ANNUAL SUPPLY OF LIBYAN PETROLEUM TO TURKEY AT CONCESSIONARY RATES AND
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ESTABLISHMENT OF JOINT MILITARY INDUSTRIES FOR PRODUCTION OF MILITARY EQUIPMENT. PRESUMABLY LATTER COULD BE ESTABLISHED IN EITHER COUNTRY, BUT KARASAPAN FELT THAT ARRANGEMENTS WOULD RESULT IN LIBYAN INVESTMENT IN ARMAMENTS FACTORIES TO BE BUILT IN TURKEY. TURKEY, FOR ITS PART, WOULD PROVIDE MILITARY TRAINING TO LIBYANS ALTHOUGH, IN KARASAPAN'S VIEW, THIS WOULD PROBABLY CONSIST MORE OF STAFF OFFICER TRAINING AT TURKISH ACADEMIES THAN OF TROOP TRAINING.

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ACTION NEA-10

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7. AS FINAL POINT, KARASAPAN ALSO NOTED THAT A COOPERATION AGREEMENT ALSO HAD BEEN SIGNED BETWEEN TURKISH REPUBLICAN PEOPLE'S PARTY AND LIBYAN SOCIALIST UNION PARTY. HE RECALLED THAT NEGOTIATIONS FOR THIS SERIES OF AGREEMENTS HAD BEGUN UNDER RPP LEADER ECEVIT'S ADMINISTRATION.

8. IN A GENERAL DISCUSSION OF TURKEY'S MOTIVATION WITH RESPECT TO THESE AGREEMENTS, KARASAPAN REJECTED SUGGESTION THAT THESE ARRANGEMENTS HAD ANY ANTI-AMERICAN CONECTION, NOTING SPECIFICALLY THAT AGREEMENTS WERE SIGNED AT A TIME WHEN US MILITARY ASSISTANCE HAD NOT YET BEEN SUSPENDED AND WHEN GENERAL IMPRESSION THEN EXISTED THAT USG TACITLY
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CONDONED TURKISH ACTION IN CYPRUS. HE REITERATED THAT TURKEY NEEDED GUARANTEED SUPPLY OF PETROLEUM AND COULD OBVIOUSLY BENEFIT FROM INFLOW OF LIBYAN INVESTMENT

CAPTIAL EITHER UNDER ECONOMIC AND COMMERCIAL
COOPERATION OR AS PART OF THE JOINT MILITARY INDUSTRIES
PROGRAM.

9. KARASAPAN NOTED THAT TURKISH EMBASSY HAD NOT YET
BEEN APPROACHED BY GOE FOR EXPLANATION OF THESE
ARRANGEMENTS, BUT THAT HE WAS SEEKING FURTHER DETAILS
FROM ANKARA IN CASE EGYPTIANS ASKED.

10. COMMENT: REFTEL B RECEIVED AFTER ABOVE WAS
DRAFTED. IMPRESSION RECEIVED FROM TURKISH AMBASSADOR
IN TRIPOLI DIFFERS IN CERTAIN RESPECTS FROM THAT
ACQUIRED HERE, PARTICULARLY WITH RESPECT TO WIDER
EMPLOYMENT OF TURKS ON OTHER THAN TURKISH PROJECTS.
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